

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response responds to the Office Action dated April 4, 2007.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability of Claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 49, 65, 72, 81, 87, 101, 103, 124, 140, and 145 and all claims dependent from these claims, as indicated on page 7 of the Office Action.

Status Of The Claims

With this Amendment and Response, claims 1, 5-6, 24, 26-27, 38, 56, 72, 81, 87, 92, 95, 120, 124, 131, and 139-140 are amended and claims 3, 30-37, 49-55, 59-61, and 99 are canceled. As a result, claims 1, 4-6, 14, 16-20, 24-28, 38-41, 45-48, 56, 63, 65-72, 74-81, 83-87, 89-92, 95-96, 100-104, 113, 115-117, 119-120, 123-127, 131-150 are now pending in this application and claims 2, 9-13, 15, 21-23, 42-44, 64, 73, 82, 88, 93-94, 97-98, 112, 118, 128-130 are pending but withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent Claim 3. Claims 5 and 81 have been rewritten in independent form. The remainder of the claims have been amended so they are in proper format due to the other claim cancellations and amendments. These amendments do not add new matter. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 120 was objected to as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim, as detailed in numbered paragraph 3 of the Office Action. Claim 120 is now properly dependent on claim 1. This amendment is believed to obviate this basis for objection.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 14, 16-20, 28, 63, 67-71, 92, 95, 96, 99, 102, 113, 125-127, 134, 139 and 141 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Murase et al. (JP 01-319574) as detailed in numbered paragraph 5 of the Office Action.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent Claim 3. Claim 99 is canceled. The Examiner has indicated the allowability of Claim 3 in numbered paragraph 7 of the Office Action. Accordingly, this amendment is believed to obviate this basis for rejection of Claim 1 and claims 14, 16-20, 28, 63, 67-71, 92, 95, 96, 102, 113, 125-127, 134, 139, and 141

depending from claim 1.

§102/103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 100 and 147 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Murase et al. (JP 01-319574) as detailed in numbered paragraph 6 of the Office Action.

Claims 100 and 147 depend from Claim 1, which, as detailed in the preceding paragraph, the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Accordingly, claims 100 and 147 as depending from claim 1 are allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-6, 49, 65, 72, 81, 87, 101, 103, 124, 140, and 145 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims as detailed in numbered paragraph 8 of the Office Action.

The limitations of claim 3 have been incorporated into independent claim 1 and claims 5 and 81 have been rewritten in independent form. The remainder of the claims, claims 6, 65, 72, 87, 124, 140, and 145 are dependent on allowable claim 1, or have been canceled.

REQUEST FOR REJOINDER

As detailed above, Applicants believe that all pending claims, claims 1, 4-6, 14, 16-20, 24-28, 38-41, 45-48, 56, 63, 65-72, 74-81, 83-87, 89-92, 95-96, 100-104, 113, 115-117, 119-120, 123-127, 131-150 are in condition for allowance. Applicants request rejoinder of the withdrawn dependent claims, claims 2, 9-13, 15, 21-23, 42-44, 64, 73, 82, 88, 93-94, 97-98, 112, 118, 128-130 as depending from an allowable generic claim and/or an allowable linking claim. Accordingly, Applicants request an indication of allowability of all pending claims, claims 1-2, 4-6, 9-28, 38-48, 56, 63-98, 100-104, 112-113, 115-120, and 123-150.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at 612-373-6920 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date

6/29/07

By



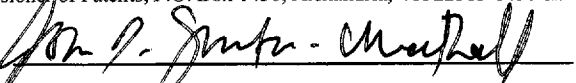
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 29 day of June 2007.



Name



Signature